

2007-08 Maine Educational Assessment Grade 5 Writing Prompt Information

The narrative mode of writing, measuring the 1997 Maine *Learning Results*, will be assessed on the March 2008 MEA at grade 5 and result in student scores.

Grade 5 Narrative Writing Prompt (1997 MLR G2, Narrative).

Narrative writing tells a story or recounts a sequence of events. The structure is organized to tell a story either in the order it happened or in some other logical sequence. Narratives can be true as in a newspaper account (sometimes called narrative non-fiction) or take creative license as in fiction. The reader is kept engaged through effective use of story elements (setting, characters, and problem/solution). Narratives may also include messages, morals, or lessons as part of their purpose. On the MEA writing prompt, students are expected to write a fictional story incorporating a problem and solution into the plot.

Elements of Well-written Fiction:

- “ground the entire story (not just the introduction) in a sense of place”
- develop characters the writer “knows well enough to live inside their skin and see through their eyes”
- “craft a story that emerges out of the intersection of a character’s motivations and the obstacles that get in the way”
- write “effective endings that address something essential in the story”.

- Lucy Calkins, *Units of Study Grades 3-5*